

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of fabricating at least a honeycomb body of ceramics comprising a multiplicity of cells having the wall thereof not more than 0.125 mm thick, in which at least an extrusion-molded argillaceous honeycomb body is dried by being exposed to a high-humidity ambience of not less than 70 % in humidity and irradiated with microwaves having a frequency of 1,000 to 10,000 MHz.
2. A method of fabricating at least a honeycomb body according to claim 1, wherein the temperature of the high-humidity ambience is not lower than 80°C.
3. A method of fabricating at least a honeycomb body according to claim 1, wherein the high-humidity ambience is formed by being supplied with high-humidity steam.
4. A method of fabricating at least a honeycomb body according to claim 1, wherein the drying process described above is carried out by measuring the temperature of the honeycomb body and changing the conditions for microwave radiation in accordance with the measured temperature.
5. A method of fabricating at least a honeycomb body according to claim 1, wherein the temperature of the honeycomb body is measured by use of selected one of an infrared radiation thermometer and a laser thermometer.
6. In fabricating at least a honeycomb body of ceramics composed of a multiplicity of cells arranged in the shape of honeycomb with the cell wall not thicker than 0.125 mm, a system for drying at least an extrusion-molded argillaceous honeycomb body, comprising a drying bath for accommodating at least a honeycomb body, a humidifier for creating a high-humidity ambience of not lower than 70 % in humidity in the drying bath, and at least a microwave generator for supplying microwaves in the frequency range of 1,000 to 10,000 MHz into the drying bath.

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7. A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 6, wherein the humidifier includes a high-temperature steam source for generating a high-temperature steam.

5 8. A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 6, comprising means for measuring the temperature of the honeycomb body being dried, and control means for changing the conditions for microwave radiation in accordance with the measured temperature.

10 9. A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 8, comprising a drying bath having a transparent partitioning wall formed in a part thereof, and means arranged outside the drying bath for measuring the temperature of the honeycomb body, through the transparent partitioning wall, without contacting the honeycomb body.

15 10. A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 9, wherein the temperature measuring means is selected one of an infrared thermometer and a laser thermometer.

20 11. A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 10, wherein the transparent partitioning wall constituting a part of the drying bath is made of selected one of glass and a rigid plastic.

25 12. A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 9 or 10, further comprising water-removing means for preventing water drips from attaching on that surface of the transparent partitioning wall constituting a part of the drying bath which is nearer to the drying bath.

30 13. A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 12, wherein the water-removing means is a blower for blowing the air onto the surface of the transparent partitioning wall nearer to the drying bath.

35 14. A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 13, wherein the blower is configured to have a blowing capacity of not less than 0.5 m³/min.

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